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In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application are not anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by Heirich et al.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heirich et al. (U. S. Patent 5,689,574 issued November 18, 1997). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a cabinet for an electronic device equipped with loudspeakers (see, specification at page 1, lines 5-6). The cabinet includes a first cabinet 4 for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 13-15). The first cabinet 4 also includes a confining area 8 for accommodating a separate second cabinet 9 for the loudspeaker 11 (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 15-16). A sidewall of the second cabinet 9 is formed to follow the shape of the confining area 8 (see, specification at FIGS. 2-3 and page 6, line 13-15) and the second cabinet 9 is connected to the first cabinet 4 in a non-detachable manner (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 2, lines 16-18).

Heirich et al. describes an audio unit for a display device (see, Heirich et al. at column 1, lines 13-19). The display unit 18 sits above the audio unit 14 on isolation means 40 such that there is a visible gap between the display unit 18 and the audio unit 14 (see, Heirich et al. at FIG. 13 and column 9, lines 1-34).

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Heirich et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a first cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, the first cabinet having a confining area for accommodating a separate second cabinet for the loudspeaker, wherein a sidewall of the second cabinet is formed to follow the shape of the confining area and wherein the second cabinet is connected to the first cabinet in a non-detachable manner. Rather, Heirich et al. describes a completely different arrangement that teaches away from that described in claim 1 where a display unit sits above an audio unit on isolation means such that there is a visible gap between the display unit and the audio unit. Since Heirich et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a first cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, the first cabinet having a confining area for accommodating a separate second cabinet for the loudspeaker, wherein a sidewall of the second cabinet is formed to follow the shape of the confining area and wherein the second cabinet is connected to the first cabinet in a non-detachable manner, claim 1 is patentable over Heirich et al.

Claims 2-5 and new claims 6-7 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 and new claims 6-7 are also patentable over Heirich et al.

2. Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by You et al.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by You et al. (U. S. Patent 5,361,380 issued November 1, 1994). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a cabinet for an electronic device equipped with loudspeakers (see, specification at page 1, lines 5-6). The cabinet includes a first cabinet 4 for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 13-15). The first cabinet 4

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also includes a confining area 8 for accommodating a separate second cabinet 9 for the loudspeaker 11 (see, specification at FIG. 2a and page 2, lines 15-16). A sidewall of the second cabinet 9 is formed to follow the shape of the confining area 8 (see, specification at FIGS. 2-3 and page 6, line 13-15) and the second cabinet 9 is connected to the first cabinet 4 in a non-detachable manner (see, specification at FIG. 2b and page 2, lines 16-18).

You et al. describes a woofer module for a television set (see, You et al. at column 1, lines 6-10). The woofer module 12 sits on top of a television set 34 and is attached to the back panel thereof with user accessible screws 30 such that there is a visible gap 22b between the television set 34 and the woofer module 12 necessary to vent 46 the television set (see, You et al. at FIGS. 2A-2B and column 3, line 52 to column 4, line 49).

You et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a first cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, the first cabinet having a confining area for accommodating a separate second cabinet for the loudspeaker, wherein a sidewall of the second cabinet is formed to follow the shape of the confining area and wherein the second cabinet is connected to the first cabinet in a non-detachable manner. Rather, You et al. describes a completely different arrangement that teaches away from that described in claim 1 where a woofer module sits on top of a television set and is attached to the back panel thereof with user accessible screws such that there is a visible gap between the television set and the woofer module necessary to vent the television set. Since You et al. does not describe or suggest an electronic device having a cabinet including a first cabinet for housing electrical and mechanical components of the electronic device, the first cabinet having a confining area for accommodating a separate second cabinet for the loudspeaker, wherein a sidewall of the second cabinet is formed to follow the shape of the confining area and wherein the second cabinet is connected to the first cabinet in a non-detachable manner, claim 1 is patentable over You et al.

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Claims 2-5 and new claims 6-7 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 and new claims 6-7 are also patentable over You et al.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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